

### A Prince's Hospitality

The late Adolph Von Menzel owed one of the pleasantest surprises of his life to the German emperor. On the occasion of the painter's eightieth birthday anniversary Kaiser Wilhelm invited him to Sans-Souci. As he drove through the park there were a number of rococo statues and statues to remind him of the epoch he had particularly studied. At the castle he was met by an old grenadier, attired in his buttons exactly as Menzel had painted his ancestors. The ballroom was filled with ladies and gentlemen in the dresses he had put on the canvas.

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## DAIRY NOTES

### Picking Out a Cow.

I have first and last picked out a good many cows and have sometimes made expensive mistakes. I have also frequently succeeded in getting hold of a very good dairy animal. I have learned a few things about picking out cows that are of value to me and may be to someone else. One of the things is that where a cow can be purchased in the environs of a town it is possible to learn something about her from neighbors. I frequently get on the track of a good cow by inquiring if there are any cows to sell in that neighborhood. The reply will be that So-and-So has a wonderful cow that gives milk eleven months in the year and very rich milk at that. A good cow in a small place soon gets a reputation all her own. I approach the owner and offer the prevailing price. He, of course, refuses, and says he would not part with that cow under such and such a price, naming a price that he thinks high.

But I, knowing that a good cow is worth a dozen times a fair cow and a hundred times a poor cow, do not regard the price as high. I look the cow over, milk her myself and take some of the milk home to test. This I do by setting it overnight in a straight glass. The method is a little crude, and a better way would be to use a Babcock tester, but the results are approximately correct. Even with a Babcock test a single test would count for little more than this test in an ordinary water glass.

In the main, I try to buy cows that are four or more years old, as at that time in life they have demonstrated what they can do as milk producers. A heifer does not show what she can do, and I can't afford to experiment, when I can buy very good cows relatively cheap.—George Ellis, Caldwell Co., Ky., in Farmers' Review.

### Bog Butter.

Samples of "bog butter" are to be found in various museums in Scotland and Ireland, and some of these samples are known to be at least 350 years old. Analyses made in Great Britain show these samples to be real butter.

All the bog butters contained glycerine, proving their animal origin, and their analyses and physical properties show them to be simply butter which has been kept for a long time in unusual circumstances. The ubiquitous red hairs tell a tale. The suggestion is made that the milk was churned in a skin—a very old process still practiced by the Arabs. Far from objecting to the presence of hairs in his butter, the old-time gourmet seems to have regarded them as a necessary adjunct, as the Roman did the flavor of pitch in his wine. In the Ulster Journal, Vol. VII, the following quotation is given from the Irish Hudibras: "Great heaps of thick three-corned bread,

And hairy butter van did lead."

Bog butter is usually found packed in barrels or kegs hollowed out of a single piece of wood with a cover cut from another piece of wood, and sometimes with a bottom of skin with the hair attached.

Sometimes the butter is wrapped up in coarse cloth, the bark of trees or rushes, and one sample so wrapped up still retains on the surface of the butter the print of the hand of the lady who had shaped it.

It is not absolutely certain why the packages of butter were placed in bogs.

Three possible reasons are suggested—(1) accident, (2) that a strong taste due to the coarse herbage the cows fed on was got rid of by the process, and (3) preservation. The following quotation from the Irish Hudibras seems to confirm either or both of the second and third reasons: "Butter to eat with their hog

## BUSYBODIES VS. TRUTH.

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